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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,687	07/15/2003	David T. Jennings III	BRI/018	8452

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EXAMINER

COLLINS, TIMOTHY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,687

Applicant(s)

JENNINGS, DAVID T.

Examiner

Timothy D Collins

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 15-17 and 21-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 15-17 and 21-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

While any delay in prosecution is regrettable, upon further review and consideration of the claims at hand, the previous final office action has been withdrawn and a **new grounds of non-final rejection has been made.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 23 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims recite "rectifier bridge diodes" which is not clear. The applicant may mean "a full wave bridge rectifier" which comprises 4 diodes in a "diamond" arrangement. Clarification of this is needed. Because of this the claims 23 and 34 have been treated as best understood and it is taken that only a diode is needed, because diodes become "rectifier bridge diodes" when they are used in a full wave bridge rectifier. For example "house nails" are not different from regular nails however when they are used in a house they could be referred to as "house nails".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-13,15-17,21-22,23-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by USPN 6188314 to Wallace et al. (hereinafter called 314).

a. Re claims 11-12, 314 discloses a system with modulation based talkback from a slave to a master with at least one slave (20) which communicated with a master (16) through current modulated talkback. The system having a high and low voltage state (because the voltage is spoken of as being variable) and with the background noise being held low when it is desired that the slave talkback to the master (see column 6 at lines 30-37 at least). Also the system being an electronic blasting system and the slave being an electronic detonator (see column 4 at lines 11-16 at least, the slave is the airbag initiator which causes the inflation fluid to inflate the bag).

b. Re claim 13, 314 discloses a bus (14) and more than one slave (18,20).

c. Re claim 15, 314 discloses that the master is a blasting machine (the master is the blasting machine that controls the airbag initiator or initiators).

d. Re claims 16 and 17, see rejections of claims 11-12 and 15 above.

e. Re claim 21, see rejection of claim 11 above.

f. Re claim 22, see rejections of claims 11-12 and also see the specification of 314 columns 6 line 61 to column 7 line 4, at least.

g. Re claim 23, 314 discloses a diode, at numbers 90 and 120.

h. Re claims 24 and 25, see rejection of claims 11,12, and 15 above..

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- i. Re claim 26, see rejection of claims 11-12 above.
- j. Re claim 27, see rejection of claims 11-13 above.
- k. Re claim 28, 314 discloses that the slave device includes a storage capacitor and a communications interface as seen in figure 5 which shows 128 and 60 at least.
- l. Re claim 29, see rejection of 11-13 above.
- m. Re claim 30, see 22 above.
- n. Re claim 31, 314 discloses digital data representation at least in column 7 at lines 10-16.
- o. Re claim 32, see 22 above.
- p. Re claim 33, see 28 above.
- q. Re claim 34, see 23 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 23 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over 314 as above.

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r. Re claims 23 and 34, 314 discloses that the slaves have capacitors (96 and 128 at least), and also diodes (90 and 120) at least. These diodes are used for rectifying, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used a "full wave bridge rectifier" or any other rectifier in their place, for ease of manufacture or for cost savings on a common part for other electronic items.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy D Collins whose telephone number is 571-272-6886. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:00-3:00, with every other Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on 571-272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Timothy D. Collins
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643



Peter M. Poon
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600

4/15/05